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Quick Strokes

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Dvorak typing instruction

Who teaches Dvorak typing? Every school can do it, and, in our experience, all schools will. Public high schools that do are

Vienna High School, Vienna, Virginia,
Fox Chapel High School, Pittsburgh,
Pennsylvania,
Wichita Heights High School, Wichita,
Kansas, and
Camp Verde High School, Camp Verde,
Arizona.

Equip your student with a Dvorak-keyboard typewriter and a manual; the student then enrolls in the class and makes his explanations to the teacher. It should never be necessary to involve a department head or a principal.

Manuals that are in stock at Speedy Keyboard Ent. Inc. and available from Speedy Keyboard application specialists are Smith-Corona's Short Course for the American Simplified Keyboard (ASK) Typewriter, \$5.40, and the Simplified Keyboard Supplement, \$2.50, both by the late August Dvorak, Ph. D.

The recommended variant of the Dvorak arrangement is known to dealers in SCM products as "ASK". If you favor any other make, it is advisable to carry with you a diagram from Quick Strokes.

Classroom instruction, with a teacher and with at least two trainees at a time, works best. Anyone who is eligible for a general secondary teaching certificate should be able to teach the subject. So should a capable supervisor who has had a brief course from Speedy Keyboard Training Center, Box 643, West Sacramento, California 95691.

For further information, call any of the following Speedy Keyboard application specialists:

Daniel Adachi, 617-498-4080,
Belmont Adams, 207-883-6835,
Gerald Baker, 319-266-6205,
Philip Davis, 916-446-3377,
Roger Davis, 805-969-5375.

Report from York

On letterhead of J. Hilbert Anderson, consulting engineer, York, Pennsylvania:

"Thank you for your letters, references and copies of Quick Strokes. We have already purchased Synergistic Typing from Belmont Adams. You will also be pleased to hear that we have ordered a Wang 2200 System computer with a Dvorak keyboard.

"We feel the Dvorak Keyboard will facilitate program input and we anticipate using the computer for word processing in document preparation.

"Our next typewriter will be purchased with a Dvorak keyboard. IBM will make the change at the factory for \$18.75 on a new machine.

"Thank you for your help.

"Sincerely, James H. Anderson, Jr.

"P.S. I am enclosing a brochure on Sea Solar Power, our sister company at the same location. For your interest, J. Hilbert Anderson, Inc., is designing and has full responsibility for the first hot water geothermal power plant in the country. It is presently being built at Magma Energy's East Mesa site in the Imperial Valley of California. Magma Energy is supplying the finances to construct this plant to our design."

Steve Driggs, 415-647-3922

Richard Sandberg, 612-560-8150, or
Barry Traver, 215-IV 3-1379.

Some keep Dvorak-keyboard typewriters in stock for immediate delivery.

R. E. Morton Associates, 1238 W. Columbia, Chicago, Illinois 60628, telephone 312-338-9216 or 312-973-3428 offers two Dvorak training kits, one for institutional instruction and the other for self instruction. Any method is fast if the keyboard is Dvorak, but the Morton method is fastest. Brochures are in preparation.

Chicago Tribune story brings warm response

Almost a hundred enquiries have been received at Quick Strokes in response to a story which appeared in Mary Knoblauch's contribution to the Tempo section of the Chicago Tribune on October 2, 1976.

Seven were from high schools or school districts,
one from a Chicago city agency,
one from a library,
three from colleges,
two from universities,
one from a bank,
two from clergymen,
two from manufacturing firms,
one from a magazine, and
one from a "robotics" company.

Most, of course, are from Chicago or north or south suburban zip codes. Six are from Indiana, seven from Wisconsin, two from Iowa, one from Vermont, one from a school in Salina, Kansas, one from an army postoffice, one from Michigan, and five from Dixon, Danville, Champaign, Carbondale, and Urbana.

For some of these good people, this issue of Quick Strokes will be the first acknowledgement of their query. A payment of five dollars, addressed to Box 643, West Sacramento, California 95691, will keep this quarterly bulletin coming and keep you posted on how the strokes are falling into line.

The Tribune story points out deficiencies in the old arrangement of characters on the typewriter keyboard and quotes from Hermione Dvorak's script, "Fraser Street," which consists almost entirely of left-hand strokes when it is written on the old keyboard. On a Dvorak keyboard, alternate stroking, left hand, right, left, right, prevails.

The point is well taken. It is, indeed, the rhythmic input that makes Dvorak keying so easy to learn, so fast when learned, and so accurate.

The Chicago Sun-Times and Daily News have also given editorial attention to the Dvorak arrangement. See, for instance, the Sun-Times for Jan. 24, 1975, page 24.

Much-sought-after report by U. S. Navy again in print and in stock

The current reprint of the United States Navy report on a fourteen-operator application of the Dvorak keyboard arrangement is a photographic reproduction -- nothing deleted and nothing inserted.

The report is thorough and candid and is completely valid today, although the date of the "No Objections to Publication" stamp is January 3, 1946. The Simplified Keyboard on which the operators were retrained is the same arrangement as the currently recommended Dvorak or ASK arrangement for all characters of as much as one in a thousand in incidence.

The first paragraphs, about the abundance of unsuccessfully pretrained Sholes-arrangement operators and the scarcity of competent ones, put us in mind of the present situation, with government and industry resorting to agency- or company-sponsored training.

The savings from retraining on Dvorak, especially when transposed into terms of 1977 costs, are impressive.

The government-printed, saddle stapled document is in many libraries but has long been out of print. The author is the navy; so is the publisher. It has two titles, the first of which is A Practical Experiment in Simplified Keyboard Retraining. The current reprint is bound better and will withstand more handling.

The reprint is available from the Speedy Keyboard application specialists listed on page 1 of this issue, at \$2 each plus 50¢ per package for postage and handling. We urge order of four -- two for your local library, one for your own file, and one to lend.

There are 31 printed pages, with text, tables, graphs, and charts to support the conclusions. The quoted comments from operators and their supervisors are especially interesting. The investigative technique is unassailable, and the conclusions are inescapable.

The proof of the keyboard arrangement is in the volume and quality of the output

A swift is an operator who consistently turns out extraordinary linage and clean proofs.

Barbara Blackburn, the world's fastest secretary (see her performance as cited in the Giant 1976 Edition of the Guinness Book of World Records), is a swift on Dvorak. Her cruising pace of 150 to 160 words a minute qualifies her as a swift in anybody's book.

Howard Hudson, of Decatur, Georgia, and Dan Buxton, Seattle, court reporters, transcribing their own machine shorthand notes can match the Blackburn pace and even surpass it. E. L. Tottle, author, Baltimore; Barry Traver, clergyman, Philadelphia; Tom D'Esposito, printing executive, New York; Marie Parkinson, Toronto; Kelley McCauley, Lompoc, California; and Waldo Boyd, Geyserville, California, are all swifts by the standard of hundred-word-a-minute output sustained with an error rate below two per cent of strokeage. They all use the classic Dvorak Simplified arrangement or a close variant.

Nobody is even trying to set any records on any other arrangement. All the real swifts in the English-writing world are on Dvorak. All reasonable doubt of the absolute superiority of the basic Dvorak arrangement over all others that have ever been tested has been removed by the performance of the current crop of Dvorak operators.

Australian spokesman
for Dvorak keying
plans U. S. visit

Ronald Watson, of Newport Beach, Australia, business man, public speaker, and longtime advocate of the Dvorak arrangement of characters on alphanumeric keyboards, plans to arrive for his first visit to the United States at the end of May, 1977. Starting in Seattle, his trip will include visits to Long Prairie, Minnesota, to Ada, Michigan, and to New York.

Correspondence addressed to Quick

Strokes and the Speedy Keyboard corporation indicates a rise in interest in the better arrangement on the part of government and industry in Australia. The media have carried the message from time to time throughout the Commonwealth, but the mail comes in from Australia. Some of the difference must surely be due to the pioneering and persevering work of Mr. Watson.

Various speakers in the United States and Canada have done good to excellent work at a lectern -- Professor Dvorak, particularly in the last decade of his life, Howard Hudson, particularly in Phoenix, Tom Booz, now located in Florida, Michael McNeil in San Francisco, Prof. C. W. Strong at San Luis Obispo, Rico Heidelberg, at one time in Washington, D. C., and also in Switzerland, R. S. Parkinson, Robert McCauley, Barry Traver, Belmont Adams, and Philip Davis.

Mr. Watson, however, has -- twice -- addressed a sales meeting of an office equipment manufacturing firm and, moreover, a meeting of the IBM Users' Association of Sydney. His sales experience is with the Amway company.

He now has equipment with which he is delighted -- a typewriter with electric power and a Dvorak arrangement -- and he speaks from hands-on experience.

Program chairmen for word processing associations, secretaries' associations, teachers' associations -- all sorts of groups -- may write to Mr. Watson at P. O. Box 34 in Newport Beach, and the code is 2106. Postage for half an ounce is 31¢. and an aerogram is 22¢.

Quick Strokes is published
quarterly at
Box 643
West Sacramento, CA 95691
by Philip Davis, phone 916-446-3377
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Free and unauthorized ads for other people's merchandise

Saks Fifth Avenue, New York, offers a Personal Porter, the London Harness Co., Boston, offers a Cart-A-Bag, and Sears, Roebuck, in its catalog department, offers a Travel Caddy. Any of these can be described as a light-weight, collapsible hand truck. They all push down so that the suitcase or the typewriter in its carrying case can be carried aboard a bus, train, or airplane or stowed in a car, without detaching the caddy.

The weight capacity is sixty pounds, and so an office model typewriter, repacked in its original carton, can be carried in the same way.

Get credit for work well done!

or well begun! or barely started! or only gleaming in your eye! Write to Belmont Adams, 4 Park Ave., RFD 1, Scarborough, Maine 04074! Ask for his survey questionnaire on Dvorak keyboard applications!

Frank Cremonesi retires

In remarks to the Computer Input Conference of the Printing Industries of America in 1970, Frank Cremonesi, who was automation coordinator for the International Typographical Union, observed that the newcomers to printing employment had the same problem, in a time of transition, as the old timers, namely, retraining. Few schools taught then nor teach now on cathode ray tube terminals with typographic features.

Gently, he pointed out that the arrangement of characters on the keyboard is the only crude assembly in the new column-composing equipment. Without introducing a new process but simply by changing the arrangement and arranging for a brief retraining, management can achieve a considerable increase in productivity and at the same time confer a welcome benefit on its operators.

Cremonesi's retirement was announced in the January, 1977, Typographical Journal.

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